

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

November 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft BDCP Meeting Notes September 19, 2008
- Key Recommendations From Independent Science Advisors Concerning Non-aquatic Resources In the BDCP Plan Area
- BDCP Outreach Contact Log
- Draft BDCP Integration Team Schedule of Agenda Topics
- Draft Approach to Integrated Technical Studies in Support of the comprehensive BDCP Conservation Strategy
- Preliminary Draft Summary of Potential Opportunities for Tidal Marsh Restoration by ROA based on Implementability, Suitability, and Cost

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Approved BDCP Draft Meeting Notes September 19, 2008

Updates

- Delta Vision (DV) Cabinet Committee will hold its first public workshop next Friday, November 21. The first report of the DV Cabinet Committee is due out soon.
- Secretary Chrisman continues to meet regularly with elected officials from the Delta counties.
- California Fish and Game Commission will be holding a meeting to consider re-adopting regulations for longfin smelt.
- Russ Strach reported that NMFS had received a new inquiry from Congressional members; out of 16 pages, four questions relate to BDCP.
- Reminder that SC will be meeting every Friday through December 19, except for the week of Thanksgiving.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Integration Team

Laura King Moon reported on the Integration Team's first meeting. There was good attendance by all stakeholders. The Team discussed several items including: approach to technical studies to support integration of conservation actions; a summary table of Restoration Opportunity Areas (ROA); and a draft overview summary of the conservation strategy.

Paul Cylinder presented and discussed the *Draft BDCP Integration Team Schedule of Agenda Topics* (see associated handouts/documents)

Paul Cylinder provided an overview of the document entitled *Draft Approach to Integrated Technical Studies in Support of the Comprehensive BDCP Conservation Strategy* (see associated handouts/documents). The document identifies the following

Technical Studies:

- #1: North Delta Diversion Effects on Survival in North Delta Channels
- #2: Evaluation of North Delta Migration corridors
- #3: Evaluation of Entrainment at South Delta Diversion
- #4: Evaluation of tidal Marsh Restoration Effects
- #5: Additional Technical Studies

Members of the Integration Team, additional members of the SC, and the BDCP consultants are working on these technical studies.

SC members discussed the document and raised issues including: whether a consensus has been reached on the draft hydrodynamic operations scenarios for inclusion in the draft water operations conservation measures (Integration Team is aiming for an agreement by December 19); when and where biological goals and objectives will be integrated into the BDCP Conservation Strategy chapter; the status of the Independent Science Advisors' Terrestrial workshop report; and the development of other stressors conservation measures.

Members continued with a discussion on the future role of the Integration Team as well as the other Working Groups and Technical Teams. They will be convened as needed and requested. The Integration Team will focus on key components and core elements of the conservation strategy at this time to begin to build a framework for the conservation strategy. SC members expressed concern with the aggressive schedule.

Public comments:

Ann Spaulding representing the City of Antioch asked which WG is addressing water quality issues. Water quality issues related to contaminants are being addressed in the Other Stressors WG and issues related to salinity are being addressed in the Conveyance WG and Integration Team.

Key Recommendations From Independent Science Advisors Concerning Non-aquatic Resources In the BDCP Plan Area

Wayne Spencer reported on the independent science advisors' (ISA) terrestrial species workshop and presented their recommendations. Six advisors participated in the workshop. The ISA suggests carrying a provisional list of covered species forward until it is certain which species will and will not be adversely affected by BDCP covered activities and conservation measures. Recommend that DFG species of special concern stay on covered species list. He described the ISA's view point for keeping and adding and removing species as new information becomes available. To help with review of ISA report, the May 22, 2008 Covered Species Memo prepared by SAIC will be redistributed to the SC. ISA recommended expanding the descriptions of other natural communities in the "Existing Ecological Conditions" chapter to same level of detail as the covered natural communities. They thought the consultant's documents were some of the best they had ever seen. They liked the species accounts. There are recommended minor changes to the documents. This is a summary of the report; the full report will be delivered later today. Members raised issues from the report including:

protecting “soft habitat edges,” maintenance of levees, indirect effects on orcas, and interacting with the Army Corps.

Public comment:

Tim Newharth, resident and Delta farmer, asked for clarification whether the report indicated “new or restored wetlands” would automatically restore targeted species. Wayne Spencer said that would be true depending on the locations of habitat. Mr. Newharth also asked for clarification on what was meant by potential wetlands restoration sites in relation to an eastern canal. Paul Cylinder clarified that a restoration opportunity area is on the east of an eastern canal alignment.

Adaptive management workshop

Wayne Spencer reported on the status of the Adaptive Management workshop. Currently, it is scheduled for December 17-19. He indicated they have gathered a good group of scientists. The afternoons of the 17th and 18th will include time for SC members or representatives and consultants to interact with the ISA panel.

Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures

Pete Rawlings presented a table entitled *Preliminary Draft Summary of Potential Opportunities for Tidal Marsh Restoration by ROA based on Implementability, Suitability and Cost*. This is a summary of more detailed work by the Habitat Restoration TT to identify opportunities for restoring habitats within the Restoration Opportunity Areas.

SC members discussed the document along with questions related to: definition of “opportunities”; coordination with other local HCP/NCCPs; criteria used to evaluate restoration opportunities; definition of implementability; permitting strategy; meeting with US Army Corps (some meetings have already been held); process used to vet the information; and role of Habitat Restoration TT as well as Integration Team in developing the opportunities. SC members asked for supporting attachments including maps and criteria list.

Public comment:

Tim Newharth, Delta resident, asked for clarification as to the location of the “north Delta” area identified in the table of restoration opportunities. He was directed to the map of this area located on the BDCP web site. Mr. Newharth recommended watching Huell Howser’s show on Jeff Hart’s tour of the Delta.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Will Stelle reported on yesterday’s meeting of the WG. They went through another iteration of the structure of goals and objectives. WG plans to have draft goals and objectives document for the SC by November 21. WG continues to aim for a tiered approach: 1) Ecosystem 2) Natural community 3) Species. Refinements of the document are continuing. The WG will meet again next Thursday. They are still working to identify specific metrics for biological goals and objectives. Terrestrial species will be added to goals and objectives.

Public Outreach Liaisons

Janet Barberi presented handout *BDCP Outreach Contact Log* (see associated handouts /documents) She asked SC members for things they want to see added to public outreach.

In January there will be briefings and presentations, public workshops. Contact her if you want a briefing. The new web site in State of California format is up and running.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Roger Patterson (co-chair) reporting. The WG hopes to come to closure on the governance concepts document at its meeting following this SC meeting.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Barbara McDonnell (DWR)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Water)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Agency)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Maurice Hall (The Nature Conservancy)
Chris Scheuring (California Farm Bureau Federation)
Carl Wilcox (DFG)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Ron Kino (Mirant)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
